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Recreation Commission Minutes 09/11/2007

Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes
Tuesday, September 11, 2007
Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:00 PM on the second floor of the Arlington Senior Center on Tuesday, September 11, 2007.

Members in attendance included: Leslie Mayer, Don Vitters, Jen Rothenberg, Jim Robillard and Nancy Campbell. Also in attendance was Director of Recreation Joseph Connelly.

Members of the public included Jeanne Leary and Elizabeth Coyne.

Welcome New Commissioners

The Park and Recreation Commission welcomed new members Jim Robillard and Jen Rothenberg.

Approval of Minutes

The Park and Recreation Commission reviewed the minutes of July 24, 2007. Mr. Vitters motioned to approve the minutes and it was seconded by Ms. Campbell. Motion was approved 3-0 with Mr. Robillard and Ms. Rothenberg abstaining.

Commission Organization & Assignments

Mr. Connelly reviewed the need to elect a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson and to assign subcommittee liaisons and other commission responsibilities. Ms. Mayer and Mr. Connelly reviewed each of the Commission roles:

Mr. Vitters nominated Ms. Mayer for the Chairperson position, seconded by Ms. Campbell. There was no discussion and the motion was approved 5-0.

Mr. Vitters nominated Ms. Campbell for Vice Chairperson, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg. There was no discussion and the motion was approved 5-0.

The Commission then discussed liaison and subcommittee positions. Below is a complete list of the assignments:

PRC Chairperson	Leslie Mayer
PRC Vice Chairperson	Nancy Campbell

Representatives to Committees/Sub-committees (A Commissioner is needed to represent the PRC)

Field User Committee:	Nancy Campbell
Sports Center Improvement Committee	Jim Robillard
PRC Capital / CDBG Planning	Don Vitters
Open Space Committee	Leslie Mayer
Friends of Parks Group	Jen Rothenberg

Capital Projects (It is recommended that a Commissioner be assigned to work in partnership with the Director of Recreation, the community and/or other involved parties)

Bishop / BPIC Playground	Jen Rothenberg
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Buzzell Field	Don Vitters
Stratton Playground	Nancy Campbell
Thorndike Parking Study	Leslie Mayer
Summer St. Playground & Parking	Jim Robillard

Other Projects (It is recommended that a Commissioner be assigned to work in partnership with the Director of Recreation, the community and/or other involved parties)

Field Maintenance Policies	Jim Robillard
"Green Dog" Program	Leslie Mayer
McClennen Park Turn-Over	Don Vitters
Recreation Programming	Jen Rothenberg
"Workplace" Community Service Projects	Nancy Campbell

Investigations (It is recommended that a Commissioner be assigned to work in partnership with the Director of Recreation, the community and/or other involved parties on potential future projects)

Mill Brook Linear Park	TBA
Outdoor skating facilities	TBA
Community gardens	TBA
Swimming facilities	TBA
Teen activities	TBA
Community Center	TBA
Grants Requests	TBA

Capital Improvement Review and Vote

Mr. Connelly reviewed the current Multi-Year Capital Improvement Plan and FY 2009 Capital Requests as submitted. Copies of plan are available at the Recreation Department

The Commission discussed several elements of the capital process and the current plan. Ms. Mayer asked Mr. Robillard and Ms. Rothenberg if they would like time to review the plan before voting. Both indicated the plan was acceptable.

Mr. Vitters motioned to approve the plan as presented, seconded by Ms. Campbell and approved 5-0.

Recreation Update

Mr. Connelly updated the Commission the programming success of the summer offerings. Mr. Connelly explained that although gross revenue was down due to a conscious effort to consolidate programming, net results were increased due to decreased expenses.

Ms. Mayer shared her findings on line that the Arlington Reservoir was voted top 10 swimming areas by Boston.com. Mr. Connelly will be sure to use this in the 2008 summer marketing.

Rink Update

Mr. Connelly reviewed the many rink improvements with the Commission, stating the Facilities Supervisor, Dave Cunningham and Building Craftsman, Mark Linskey deserve recognition for all their efforts. Mr. Connelly stated that the chiller has been installed and was preparing to be started the week of September 17th.

Special Events

Mr. Connelly reviewed the request from Vision 20/20 to hold their Spy Pond Splash event on September 29, 2007 at Spy Pond Park. Mr. Connelly explained that this event would be run simultaneously to the 200th celebration taking place at Spy Pond Field. The event would be from 11:30 AM -Dusk.

Ms. Campbell motioned to approve, seconded by Mr. Robillard and approved 5-0.

Capital Improvement Update

Mr. Connelly reviewed the capital projects.

Menotomy:

Menotomy Rocks Park Renovation is progressing. There were some issues with the pathway sub contractor but things were getting back on schedule. The water bars heading towards Spring Street were being reviewed by Chief McEwen for access issues.

Buzzell:

Buzzell project is currently on hold until more testing can be completed on the soil and ground water.

Bishop/Bishop Playground:

The Bishop Field project is just about complete with a couple of pieces of sod needing replacement. A determination will be made in early October regarding the opening of the outfield.

The playground community build is progressing with Andrew Leonard and Mr. Connelly meeting with the BPIC group on a weekly basis.

Wellington:

A brief site visit was held with John Lazarus of Northeast Adventures to review access issues.

Pheasant:

A public input meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 2nd at 7 PM at the Stratton School.

Thorndike Parking:

An RFP for design services is currently out to bid.

Committee Updates

Open Space - Ms. Mayer stated that the plan is being finalized and is awaiting approval/recommendations from the Redevelopment Board.

Green Dog - Ms. Mayer and Mr. Connelly explained that the Committee is in the process of setting up a series of public hearings to review the proposal with the kick off meeting being October 25th.

Summer Street Neighborhood Association

Ms. Leary from the Summer Street Neighborhood Association discussed several points with the Commission:

- Light at Summer Street and NSTAR work
- Request for Abutters List
- Will be sending Mr. Connelly findings on bleacher replacement
- Asked Mr. Connelly if there were any funds available for additional trees. Mr. Connelly asked that Mr. Bean provide him with a price and the number of trees needed.

Ms. Campbell motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Robillard and approved 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation

